The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1108, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

A man of courage is also full of faith.—Cicero.

WHOLE NO. 1071. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1931 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 21, NO. 32.

Green Gives Labor's Criticism of Our Economic Order; Presents Labor's Social Justice Program; Demands Work For All Jobless, Shorter Hours, Larger Tax on the Rich

Editor's Note: In opening the 1931 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Vancouver, B. C., William Green, president of the Federation, made a keynote speech expressing Labor's discontent with the present economic order and outlining Labor's demand for a more equitable system based on social justice. Preceding President Green's speech, Rev. Canon A. Sovereign, Bishop-Elect of Yukon, gave the invocation, and addresses of welcome were made by Percy Bengough, chairman of the Reception and Entertainment Committee; Clarence Herrett, vice president of the Vancouver and New Westminster District Trades and Labor Council; John Bennett, acting mayor of Vancouver; A. W. Mackenzie, Minister of Labor and Mines of British Columbia, and W. A. Pritchard, reeve of the Municipality of Burnaby. The text of President Green's speech follows:

Chairman Bengough, your Honor, the Mayor of Vancouver, representatives of the Provincial Government and Municipalities, representatives of the organized labor movement of the city and of the province: I express to you all in behalf of the officers and delegates in attendance at this convention, our deep appreciation for the very cordial welcome you have extended us this morning.

We are looking forward in happy anticipation of a delightful visit with you.

We know we shall go from here, when our labors are ended and our work completed, carrying with us most fond memories of a delightful stay.

And we want you, our fellow workers in the Dominion of Canada, the representatives of all classes of people, to accept our visit here as more than a friendly gesture.

LABOR STANDS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

We want you to accept and interpret our visit to Canada and to the city of Vancouver as evidence of a sincere desire to promote and strengthen the bonds of friendship which exist between the people of the United States and the Dominion of Canada.

There is only an indistinct, invisible line separating the two nations, and as we travel its course from ocean to ocean we fail to observe a single gun or a single fort.

Every step in this invisible line speaks the language of peace, of good will and of understanding, and I declare here, if I understand the aims and purposes of this great economic movement, the organization of the working people of the two countries, it is to maintain at any cost the friendly relations that have so long been established and that make this line a line of peace, to forever prevent the building of forts or the establishment of guns of warfare, and to show to the nations of the world how it is possible for two nations to live as neighbors and in perpetual peaceful relationships.

The American labor movement established here upon the American continent is a guaranty of peace, of friendship, of mutual understanding, cooperation and good will, for so long as this movement lives and is permitted to function, the men and women who compose it will see to it that no conflict resulting in the loss of human life shall ever occur between the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America.

MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

We come as men interested in the common economic, social and industrial welfare of the peoples of the two nations. We deal with human values. We are endeavoring to promote those intangible values which make for a better civilization, a better day and a better life.

We seek for a more equitable distribution of the wealth created by human hands, not for the purpose of enriching individuals or groups, but for the purpose of making life more tolerable and happy. This is one of the aims and purposes of our organized labor movement.

I cannot refrain from referring to the fact, upon this solemn occasion, that we are meeting in the midst of a great international emergency.

Distress and suffering prevail throughout the world.

WORLD-WIDE UNEMPLOYMENT

The great Republic of the United States is affected seriously by reason of widespread unemployment.

Our fraternal delegates, sitting on my left, who have made a journey from far across the sea, will tell us when they speak to us of the distressing economic situation which prevails in their home land.

The fraternal delegates from the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress will supplement what these distinguished speakers have said this morning regarding economic conditions here.

And before us as we deliberate, as we approach our solemn consideration of this great problem, will be the picture of world wide distress affecting the well being and the happiness of hundreds of millions of people.

ABUNDANT FOOD WITH MILLIONS STARVING

Because of this dislocation of our economic structure, because there is suffering in a land where plenty exists in abundance, men and women who are the victims possess inquiring minds.

They are asking questions that are difficult to answer. They are wondering whether the system itself set up by society in every nation has failed.

Surely it is not to the credit of a social order when, on the one hand, we find the Creator of the Universe supplying us with food in abundance, and on the other, our millions standing, starving and hungry.

We may well ask the question, has capitalism failed?

Surely it is not to its credit when we find a condition such as now exists in our beloved lands.

Shall we live in an age and a time when wealth increases in the hands of a few and men decay?

Shall those human values to which I refer be destroyed?

WAGE REDUCTIONS EMPLOYERS' REMEDY FOR JOBLESS

What about a system that relegates a man in the prime of life to the human scrap heap, that knows no other remedy for economic depression than to reduce the standard of living, to depress the values already here, to reduce and impair the purchasing power to a much lower point?

There has come no collective voice from the management of industry, from the officers of corporations, from those who direct and control industry, that could be accepted and construed as a practical remedy for our economic ills.

Only labor, the men and women who toil, have developed a program, a plan, a remedy, and with all the vigor it possesses has asked the governments of these respective countries, the owners and managers of industry, economists and scientists, to accept our plan and apply it as a remedy in this distressing condition.

The answer we have received thus far has been to reduce wages, to add to our misery and to our distress, to destroy the limited purchasing power of the masses of the people as it now exists, to make it necessary for men and women to buy less and to use less and to consume less.

Is there any one with reason or judgment who can conscientiously believe that we can lift ourselves out of these depths of misery to which we have sunk by adding further to the depressing situation that has plunged us into these depths?

IMMEDIATE DIVISION OF WORK IS LABOR'S REMEDY

Well, my friends, our remedy is a practical one.

We propose that men and women shall be given the opportunity to work, that they shall share in the work available, that one man or one woman is as good as another, that there shall be no discrimination, but that all, just like a family, shall share in the work available.

We hold that this can be done through an adjustment of the working time and in accordance with the economic and industrial requirements of this day and age.

Mechanical processes, science and invention, the substitution of mechanical forces for human services, have made it absolutely impossible for industry to supply men work continually under the old six day program, as we did years ago when hand labor characterized the personnel of the factory and the transportation lines of the nation.

Now the machine is doing the work that human hands formerly did.

FIVE-DAY WEEK AND SHORTER WORK DAY

Notwithstanding that fact, the managers of industry still persist in their efforts to have men work six days per week and long hours while others are idle.

We propose the immediate establishment of the five day work week in both public and private industries.

We propose further that the working day shall be so shortened as to meet the requirements of this unemployment situation, and work divided through an adjustment of the working time, so that the slack of employment may be taken up and all men and women given an opportunity to work.

WAGE STANDARDS MUST BE MAINTAINED

We propose further that the wage structure erected through the efforts of organized labor and the working men and women of the different nations of the world, and particularly of our own country, shall not be destroyed and the wage standards shall not be lowered.

If industry, through force and brutality, if industry, through the application of the law of the jungle, through the use of the primitive club of the Indians, forces men into subjection, then wage reductions will be established in spite of our protest and against our judgment.

But I warn these people who, through force and domination and dictatorship and brutality, exploit the masses of the people, forcing them down and down to the lowest depths of despair, that they can only drive them so far, and then they will turn eventually and rend those who do it.

I feel very deeply upon this subject, very deeply indeed, and in expressing my feelings, tempered by my judgment, I know I am but reflecting the opinions and the feelings of the millions of working men and women whom we represent.

SOCIAL REVOLT LOOMS FROM WAGE CUTS

There is a tremendous feeling of social unrest developing. It is apparent on every hand.

Men who are regarded as careful in the use of language, in the use of words, are beginning to speak in most emphatic terms, and it is for that reason that I feel justified, as the spokesman of millions of people, to warn these men who are forcing unorganized workers to accept reductions in wages, that if they pursue that policy they will go too far.

Read the history of the nations of the world.

Revolutions grow out of unrest and hunger, and the aristocracy of these nations never learn.

They seem to asume the attitude of indifference, of security, without taking into account the history of those nations where revolutions have overturned existing governments.

The standard of life and living among the masses of the people must be maintained upon a high level if domestic tranquility and social satisfaction is to prevail.

Men and women must be conscious of the fact that they are receiving a square deal, that they are being treated fairly, that they are not the victims of injustice, oppression, of exploitation.

The permanency of our institutions depends upon such a state of mind.

With all the emphasis I possess I want to again warn these men against a continuation of the unsocial, life-destroying policy that is being pursued by some of these heartless corporations.

HUMAN RIGHTS MUST INCLUDE RIGHT TO WORK

It is my opinion that the time has arrived when the representatives of labor can take, with every feeling of justification, a most advanced position upon the question of human rights.

You know we always regard the exercise of the enjoyment of the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as most sacred indeed.

The whole civilized world was inspired when that great, immortal document was published throughout the world, written by the immortal hand of Thomas Jefferson.

He took a most advanced position then, setting forth to the world that men and women possessed certain inalienable rights, rights that could not be challenged, rights that were inherent, inalienable rights, the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I think that that could be amended in the Republic of the United States by adding to it the right to work. I maintain that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness means little to the masses of the people unless they possess the right to work.

ABSTRACT LIBERTY MEANS NOTHING TO HUNGRY MEN

Go into the home of a hungry man, with his hungry family suffering from unemployment, denied the right to work, and discuss with him the abstract principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It means little to him. What he is thinking about is work, the right to work, the creation of, work opportunities, to be made happy, he can only enjoy happiness when he is accorded the right to work and to earn a decent living.

The position we must take is that this is an inalienable right, a sacred right, a right that any system of government, let it be capitalism, private ownership of property, or any other form of government, must guarantee to the masses of the people.

I do not mean by this that we should call upon these industrial representatives to do the impossible, but I do mean that we can demand that they, along with labor and men clothed with authority, adjust and readjust the economic conditions and the working time, so that all may enjoy the right to work.

Behold a land where men are employed, behold a community where working men and women earn a decent living, and there you behold such a place, you behold a community of men and women who are living in a reasonable state of satisfaction, providing they are not conscious of the fact that they are being exploited.

So that, my friends, reasoning this from every point of view, in my judgment we have arrived at the time, when we can, and must, and will demand the right to work and to earn a decent living, because life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness depend upon the exercise of the right to work.

WEALTH INEQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED

I cannot close these remarks without referring to a great evil that has grown constantly, one that is occupying the attention of working men and women and their friends everywhere, and that is the continually manifest, evident, inequitable distribution of the wealth of the nation.

We hold that if these corporations, these owners of corporations who have accumulated great wealth had distributed that which it seems to me they do not justly possess to the masses of the people in the shape of wages, then these large fortunes would not have been accumulated.

We believe that if they would distribute their wealth in the way of wages—because it is working men and women who create this wealth—that these periods of unemployment would not exist.

HIGHER WAGES OR HEAVY TAXATION OF LARGE FORTUNES

And so we propose, first, that the wage standards shall be built up, that the earnings of industry shall be more equitably distributed, that instead of a corporation declaring 40 per cent dividends to the stockholders and extra dividends in the shape of money payments, those values shall be equitably distributed among the working men and women who made this wealth possible.

And we hold that if they turn a deaf ear to our proposals, if they refuse to listen, then we shall go to the sovereignty of the people, to the legislative bodies of the nations, we shall go to that instrumentality set up by society, the Government itself, and there we shall call upon Government to exercise its taxing powers by distributing these large fortunes back to the people through the Government by the exercise of the taxing power of the nation.

Now we are deeply concerned over the existing situation. We are meeting now when it has become most acute.

HUNGER-STRICKEN JOBLESS MENACE GOVERNMENT

In the United States there are approximately seven million men out of work. There are thousands upon thousands in the Dominion of Canada.

There are thousands, yes, millions, out of work in Great Britain and in other nations of Europe.

This great army of the unemployed stands as a menace to the security of governmental institutions.

There is no force quite so powerful as the urge of the hunger instinct.

It moves men and women mightily.

They don't draw the fine line of distinction between that which seems right or socially wrong when they seek to satisfy hunger.

It is a mighty urge.

It cannot be dealt with through the application of those rules and laws that society has set up.

Shall this continue indefinitely?

STING OF CHARITY KILLS SELF-RESPECT

In the United States we are approaching the third winter.

That in itself presents a serious problem.

The resources of working men and, in the beginning, had some funds, are now exhausted. Men who were able to tide themselves over last winter cannot do so now.

They are dependent, and imagine a man, proud, maintaining his self-respect, resolute in purpose, being compelled by the sheer necessities of the occasion to accept charity or relief in any form!

I ask you, my friends, shall we make paupers out of men, strong, able-bodied, willing to work, anxious to work, and begging to work!

No such a condition as that should continue permanently.

FEAR DRIVES JOB-HOLDERS TO HOARDING

Men are afraid, working men are filled with fear.

They are afraid of the banks, because under our present system it seems they have broken down.

They are afraid of the unemployment situation.

They are afraid of the wage cutting policy pursued by many corporations, and, because they are afraid, their buying power is paralyzed and frozen.

They will not spend their money as freely as they did or as they will when conditions are normal.

Go to the postal savings centers of the nation and there find the increase in deposits.

Go ask the bankers about the business now being done through their safety deposit boxes, and the answer is that it has already increased enormously.

Why? Because of that unfavorable psychology established, the fear that exists in the hearts and minds of people, not only over the existing present conditions, but over the immediate future as well.

Forty million men working, eight million idle—eight million cannot buy forty million will not buy because they are afraid that they, too, may become numbered among the army of the unemployed on the morrow.

RESTORATION OF WORKERS' BUYING POWER ONLY SOLUTION

How can they ever release this great purchasing power of the masses of the people so long as we continue this condition of unemployment and so long as we reduce wages?

For industry, foolish they are, are doing nothing more than destroying their own market when they reduce wages.

And so they may as well understand now as to learn the lesson through a more costly experience, that prosperity and normal conditions can never return until the buying power of the masses of the people, until the consuming market, represented by the masses of the people, is developed to its highest point.

You can force wages down, but so long as you do misery will continue and the upgrade will never be reached until wages are restored.

In this convention we shall consider many problems affecting the economic and social well-being of the people.

LABOR'S SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

We shall outline a social justice program.

We shall further the enactment of legislation providing for old age pension legislation.

We shall demand of the Congress of the United States the enactment of an injunction relief bill that will make us free indeed, free to strike, free to organize, free to unite all the strength we possess in an effort to advance human values.

We shall fight for legislation for the children.

We shall fight for legislation for the women.

We shall offer to support legislation having for its purpose the advancement of the highest and best interests of all those employed in the Government service.

In addition to that we shall offer a concrete program here of temporary relief for the unemployed, and we shall supplement that by offering a program that we believe, if accepted and applied, will bring about a permanent solution of these distressing economic conditions.

What a great task! What a great work is before us in the atmosphere of this wonderful city, here out of the primeval forest!

We shall work honestly and diligently, endeavoring to realize our objectives and our ideals.

And, lastly, we are thinking about our record, the record of this great movement.

We are permitted here to survey a pathway made through fifty years of service, and as we survey it, weigh its accomplishments, appraise its failures, and are inspired by its ideals and principles, we shall think about the pioneer and the crusader, the constructive trade unionist who helped make the great movement possible.

It is in that spirit, the spirit of the crusader, the spirit of the pioneer, the spirit of the constructive trade unionist, that we approach the consideration of our questions and the consideration of our problems.

SPECIAL ISSUE

This issue of the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service consists of five pages.

In addition to President Green's keynote speech in opening the fifty-first annual convention of the American Federation of Labor at Vancouver, B. C., and current convention news, the issue contains the second installment of news and editorial articles covering the Report of the Executive Council of the Federation to the convention.

Both the news articles and the editorials include matter of permanent educational value to the workers.

The articles have been arranged without date lines, and may be appropriately published by the Labor Press in future issues extending over a number of weeks.

U. S. PENAL INSTITUTIONS BUILT BY FREE LABOR

All Federal penal institutions authorized by the last Congress are being constructed by free labor, according to the report of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to the 1931 convention of the Federation.

"In the 71st Congress," the report said, "provisions were made for the erection of a Federal prison, several jails and a reformatory. All of these buildings are to be constructed by free labor. A union contractor has the contract for the Federal prison to be erected at Lewisburg, Pa., at a cost of $3,500,000.

"For many years the American Federation of Labor has endeavored to eliminate as far as possible the competition of convict labor products with those produced by free labor. Until within the last two years our efforts were confined almost entirely to the prohibition of goods, wares, merchandise and coal.

"The unusual demand for new penitentiary buildings or additions during the past two years has brought convict labor in competition with the building trades. As said before, so far as the Federal Government is concerned none of the new penal institutions will be built by convicts nor will they have anything whatever to do with the work in any capacity.

"All work done by Federal prisoners is exclusively for the Government. Nothing is sold on the open market or sold in competition with the building trades.

"The aim of the American Federation of Labor has been to minimize the competition of convict labor so that employers of free labor will not be driven out of business.

"As soon as Congress meets a bill will be introduced to prohibit the sale or exchange of convict made goods from any of the several States of the United States, or possessions with goods produced by free labor in the District of Columbia."

ORGANIZED LABOR CREATES JOBS FOR NAVY YARD MEN

Employment for many men who would otherwise be in the army of the jobless was secured by Organized Labor during last Winter's session of Congress by the enactment of laws for modernizing our naval armament, declared the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its report to the 1931 convention at Vancouver.

"Because of the activities of the organizations interested in securing employment for the navy yards and arsenals," the report stated, "Congress voted to modernize three battleships at cost of $50,000,000 and appropriated $10,000,000 to begin the work. An additional $10,000,000 was appropriated to arsenals," the report stated, "Congress began construction of 11 destroyers, the total cost of which will be $51,700,000.

"In making the appropriations for the Navy Department the law provides that all articles used shall be purchased in the United States, if the excess cost is not appreciably greater."

CONGRESS REFUSED LAWS AGAINST LOAN SHARKS

The last session of the United States Congress wouldn't find time to enact measures to protect needy people in the District of Columbia from 100 to 500 per cent interest on loans charged by loan sharks, declared the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its report on legislation concerning credit unions and small loans to the 1931 convention of the Federation.

"Bills to permit the establishment of credit unions and to protect small loan borrowers were introduced in the Senate and House," the reported stated. "The credit union bill provided that any seven or more persons in the District of Columbia could incorporate and do business. This would permit groups of people working together in any government department to organize a credit union for the purpose of loaning money to its members.

"As this would not protect three-quarters of the people in the District, who would not be in a position to form credit unions, the small loan bills were introduced in their interest. Officers of the Washington Central Labor Union complained that 'loan sharks' were charging from 100 per cent to 500 per cent for small loans. The small loan bills were reported favorably to both Houses and were lost in the congestion. The American Federation of Labor supported both the credit unions and the small loan bills in an effort to drive the 'loan sharks' out of business."

AFL COUNCIL CONDEMNS LOWEST BIDDER FALLACY

The anomaly of antilabor provisions being written into Government contracts for the construction of public works without authority of law and merely by the love child of the Comptroller General of the United States is revealed as one of the too frequent usurpations of power by a bureaucracy in the report of the Executive Council of the American Federation to the 1931 convention of the Federation.

In condemning the "lowest bidder fallacy" the Council said:

"No law has been enacted by Congress which provides that the lowest bidder on public works or buildings must be awarded a contract. The practice of the Government in awarding contracts to the lowest bidder is the result of a decision made by Comptroller General McCarl.

"Under the law awarding contracts has permitted many contractors to submit bids which could be executed only by employing mostly 'handy' men at low wages. Some of them transport workers from one State to another and feed and lodge them in barracks on the building site.

"In order to eliminate this grievance a bill has been prepared to be introduced in the next Congress providing that the award shall be made to the bidder whose bid, conforming to the specifications, will be most advantageous to the Government, price and other factors considered."

A.F. OF L. OPPOSES INSURANCE FOR IDLE

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 17.—The convention of the American Federation of Labor adopted a resolution opposing the Federation on record as opposed to the establishment of compulsory unemployment insurance under Government supervision.

The report of the resolutions committee which the convention approved declared that compulsory unemployment insurance was "unsuited to our political and economic requirements and to American workingmen and women."

In the concluding address of the debate, President William Green urged the delegates not to confuse relief with the question of insurance. He agreed that the need for adequate relief was pressing and said that conditions throughout the country in the industrial areas was so deplorable that it was with difficulty that he could speak of the plight of those idle and hungry millions.

"I will do anything to get adequate relief," he declared. "I am willing to go to Congress and demand in the names of millions of workers that some of the wealth of the United States be appropriated in this great emergency to relieve this distress.

"I propose to go with the Executive Council to Congress as soon as it convenes and tell them the emergency which exists in the United States is comparable to the war emergency and that without delay Congress should vote a sufficient amount of money, millions, billions, if necessary, to feed the hungry."

Mr. Green asserted that unemployment insurance would enslave the union worker by compelling him to accept a job in a non-union plant under penalty of being deprived of his insurance.

Ultimately, he said, some form of permanent relief against unemployment would come in America, and labor was "traveling fast toward it, but the time has not yet arrived."

A. F. OF L. APPROVES JOBLESS RELIEF PLANS

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 17.—The convention of the American Federation of Labor adopted the labor-sponsored emergency unemployment relief program and the permanent unemployment prevention plan recommended by the Federation's Executive Council.

The emergency plan would—

Maintain wages.

Shorten work hours.

Assure employment to minimum work forces.

Ask each employer to take on additional workers.

Create work through public building.

Strengthen employment agencies.

Keep young persons in school to prevent their jobs from going to older men and women.

Give preference to workers with dependents.

Financial relief from public and private funds.

In its report to the convention the Executive Council pointed out that "if all employers were to take on an average of two workers each, all but one million of the unemployed would be given work."

For the permanent prevention of unemployment the convention also adopted the Executive Council recommendations which ask for national planning to balance supply and demand, public construction of the gilt edge business facts public property, a Federal labor board to collect data on wage earner progress, organization of the workers in trade unions with Labor representation on all boards concerned with national planning, adequate public employment services to connect unemployed workers with jobs, vocational counsel and retraining so that workers in stagnant trades could be taught to do work more in demand, and job security.

LABOR APPROVES INHERITANCE TAX

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 17.—The extension of inheritance and estate tax laws and reenactment of the gift tax were demanded by the convention of the American Federation of Labor, in accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Council of the Federation. In support of its action the convention declared that "taxation should be levied according to the wealth and not the consuming power of the Nation's wage earners."

SALES TAX OPPOSED BY AFL CONVENTION

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 17.—The convention of the American Federation of Labor denounced the sales tax as an attempt to place an additional tax, in a particularly aggravating way, upon those least able to bear it," and placed Organized Labor in complete opposition to the enactment of such a tax law. The action of the convention was an approval of the position of the Executive Council on the sales tax question.

AFL CONVENTION RE-ELECTS OFFICIALS

President William Green, Secretary Frank Morrison, Treasurer Martin F. Ryan, and the eight vice presidents of the American Federation of Labor were unanimously re-elected on the eighth day of the annual convention of the Federation at Vancouver, B. C. The vice presidents are: Frank Duffy, T. A. Rickert, Matthew Woll, James Wilson, John Coefield, Arthur O. Wharton, Joseph N. Weber, and G. M. Bugniazet.

6-HOUR DAY SCHEDULED FOR DU PONT EMPLOYES

Wilmington, Del., Oct. 17.—Officials of E. I. Du Pont de Nemours & Company announce a plan for relieving unemployment by adopting the six-hour work day in its plants.

The plan will not be applied in all the company's plants at present, but will be in force in the Dupont Rayon Co. and the Dupont Cellophane Co., with plants at Buffalo, N. Y.; Richmond and Waynesboro, Va., and Old Hickory, Tenn. These plants employ about 10,000 persons.

Company officials estimate that the reduction in working hours will make it possible to employ from 10 to 15 per cent more workers.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1931

Issued from the Headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

The American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service was authorized by the 1910 Convention of the American Federation of Labor.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor inaugurated the Service on April 8, 1911.

A. F. OF L. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

WILLIAM GREEN.....President
A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON.....Secretary
A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C.

MARTIN F. RYAN.....Treasurer
400 Carmen's Building, Kansas City, Mo.

FRANK DUFFY.....First Vice President
Carpenters' Building, Indianapolis, Ind.

T. A. RICKERT.....Second Vice President
Room 506, 175 West Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

MATTHEW WOLL.....Third Vice President
Room 105, A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C.

JAMES WILSON.....Fourth Vice President
Second National Bank Building, Cincinnati, Ohio

JOHN COEFIELD.....Fifth Vice President
Machinists' Building, Washington, D. C.

ARTHUR O. WHARTON.....Sixth Vice President
Machinists' Building, Washington, D. C.

JOSEPH N. WEBER.....Seventh Vice President
1440 Broadway, New York, N. C.

G. M. BUGNIAZET.....Eighth Vice President
1200 Fifteenth Street N. W., Washington, D. C.

Short Session Filibusterers Strangled Immigration Restriction Bill

The power of a small group of legislators in the short session of the United States Congress to prevent legislation favored by the majority is well illustrated by the fate of immigration restriction bills in the short session of the Seventy-first Congress as recounted by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its report to the 1931 convention of the Federation.

Immigration restrictionists introduced bills as soon as Congress met to suspend immigration for two years from countries in the Western Hemisphere, the Philippine Islands, and quota countries.

The Executive Council says that "despite the overwhelming sentiment in Congress in favor of greater restriction of immigration, nothing was accomplished."

The reason for "nothing accomplished" rested in the short session which expired by law at noon, March 4, 1931.

The Council gives the following brief account of the method used by the filibustering minority to maneuver the parliamentary situation to delay the passage of the bill in the House of Representatives and prevent its consideration in the Senate:

During the hearings representatives of the government opposed the complete restriction of immigration for two years and recommended that it be cut to 10 per cent of the present quotas and the same percentage on countries of the Western Hemisphere from which non-quota immigrants entered the United States the previous year. This recommendation was followed. The amended bill passed the House March 2, and was reported in the Senate. Every effort was made to have it taken up, but the filibuster prevented. The majority in favor of the bill in the Senate would have been very large.

It is this power of a minority in both Houses of Congress to filibuster measures to death during the short session that inspired Senator Norris of Nebraska to introduce his bill to abolish the short session and have the first session meet a few weeks after the November election instead of 13 months after the election as is now the practice.

"There is no more important question than the protection of the wage earners of the United States from excess immigration," the Council's report concluded. "It is our purpose to continue a most vigorous campaign to bring about as great a restriction of immigration as possible."

Wages Lag Behind Labor's Output

The power of the owners of industry to victimize Labor with relatively low wages despite revolutionary increases in the quantity of wealth produced by the workers for the owners, is trenchantly pointed out in the report of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to the 1931 convention of the Federation.

The Council also emphasizes the importance of trade unions as an institution to secure for the workers in the form of increased wages an ever larger portion of the wealth produced in order that the buying power of Labor may keep pace with the increased quantities of commodities and services produced and thus become an important element in preventing unemployment.

The Council points out that the average worker in the manufacturing industries increased his output of commodities 26 per cent from 1899 to 1919, and 54 per cent from 1919 to 1929.

But when it comes to the advance in real wages, expressed by "wage rates per hour in all industry in terms of the goods they will buy," the Council finds that "wage rates advanced only 4.2 per cent from 1899 to 1919, compared with the 26 per cent advance in productivity, and 36 per cent from 1919 to 1929, compared with a 54 per cent advance in productivity."

In discussing the lesson to be drawn from these unimpeachable statistical facts, the Council says:

Economic equilibrium depends on keeping a balanced relationship between economic forces. For instance, consuming power must keep pace with producing power. Income from trade and industry must be so distributed that it will increase the capacity to buy in proportion as it increases the capacity to produce. When these factors are thrown out of balance, trade and industry can no longer function normally, and we are plunged into business depression.

It is the task of trade unions to see that the worker's side of the balance is kept up, and that workers advance proportionately with other groups. Wage-earners and small salaried workers with their families form 80 per cent of the nation's population and receive 54 per cent of the national income. Almost the entire amount of this income is spent to buy industry's products and services or to pay rent, for there is little margin for saving.

In recent years workers have received about $32,000,000,000 a year. The immensity of this sum and its huge influence as an economic force, makes it essential that workers' purchasing power keep pace with industry's producing power. Industry depends on workers' buying; it is a severe handicap when workers' incomes do not keep pace.

Slave Wages on Road Work

The determination of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to secure legislation to prevent the Government of the United States from being a party to slave wages on highway construction work paid for in part by the Government will receive universal approval.

Congress appropriates millions of dollars every year for highway construction in various States with the provision that the State Governments shall pay an equal amount.

The roads are built either directly by the State Governments or by the contract system. The Federal appropriation laws contain no provisions to safeguard either decent wages or working hours and the prevailing wage rate law does not apply to highway construction. Some officials of the United States Government have taken advantage of this situation and favored low wages on highway work.

In its report to the 1931 convention of the American Federation of Labor the Executive Council of the Federation tells the story in tabloid form:

Hundreds of millions of dollars have been appropriated by the Government to aid the States in the construction of good roads. In that work the lowest wages imaginable are being paid. For instance, a contract was made by the Highway Department of South Carolina with certain contractors which provided that the wages should be 20 cents an hour but permitted a lower scale of wages for 30 per cent of the labor, such as for 15 cents an hour.

In Idaho, the State laws provide for the prevailing rate of wages. The Federal Government, however, which contributed to the building of the roads, refused to permit such a clause to be placed in the contracts.

The same outcome resulted in Wisconsin where provision was made by the State to pay 40 cents an hour for unskilled labor on the public roads to be constructed. The refusal of Federal officials resulted in the enforcement of the wage rate.

In Indiana contractors were paying 25 cents and 22 cents an hour which so aroused public opinion that the Highway Commission refused to give further contracts to those offending. Because the contractors had promised to pay 50 cents an hour, the contracts were taken away. The State is doing the work and paying 40 cents an hour. Similar reports are coming from many States.

Confronted with this collusion between State officers, many contractors, and certain Federal officials to impose low wages on workers doing road construction, the Council says it will be "absolutely necessary that the prevailing rate of wage law with such amendments as will be made in the next session of Congress be extended to road building for which the Government appropriates a share."

Workers' "Prosperity" Punctured

The official ballyhoers of employers' organizations and their satellites never weary of harping on the alleged prosperity of the workers in the United States.

In sharp contrast to these is the conviction that this "prosperity" is largely a myth and belched forth as a smoke screen to conceal the tremendous profits appropriated by those who own industry and by ownership have the legal power to exploit labor often to an extent little less severe than the exploitation imposed on the slave workers under the slave labor system of wealth production.

This conviction is confirmed by the figures on income distribution presented by the American Federation of Labor Executive Council to the 1931 convention of the Federation.

The figures are compiled from the income tax returns filed with the United States Internal Revenue Bureau. Referring to these figures the Council said:

From 1919 to 1927 the income of the average person receiving more than $5,000 a year increased by $2,151 a year; the income of the average wage earner increased by $176 per year. That is, the average man having more than $5,000 yearly gained 12 times as much as the average wage earner.

Very few wage earners have an income of more than $5,000 a year. We may take this group then, as representing income receivers outside the wage earner and the small salaried group.

In 1927, the proportion of wage-earners to those with higher incomes was approximately as 30 to 1.

The Federal Income Tax Statements report a little over 900,000 returns which show an income of $5,000 a year or more; their average income was $15,388.

There were over 27,000,000 wage-earners whose average income was $1,205. Would it not be possible to balance the gain of this lower income group and at the same time increase the total?

In the eight years from 1919 to 1927, total wages paid in the United States increased $15,000,000,000 a year, while total income paid to those with more than $5,000 increased by $4,554,000,000 a year.

Employer statisticians and economists, and those who believe that the principles in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution fully warrant a wealth production system which naturally enables the rich to grow richer and compels the poor to grow poorer, have not been very prolific in analyses of these incomes designed to show the effect of the unbalanced distribution of the increased productivity of the workers on the relative status of the wealth producers. The Council fills the vacuum with the following conclusion:

This unequal distribution of the nation's income throws the industrial mechanism out of balance. A large proportion of the income of the rich is reinvested and goes to increase the capacity of industry to produce. When the distribution of wealth is such that production outstrips industry's capacity to consume, 60 per cent of capacity; silk spinning, 63 per cent; steel castings, 80 per cent; steel barrels, 62 per cent; oil refining, 83 per cent; paper box board, 77 per cent; fertilized enmeal, 81 per cent; glassware for lights, 46 per cent; glass containers, 82 per cent.

the industry will not buy the product which the worker helped to create. Higher wages are necessary to maintain an economic machine geared to high production.

"Labor further points out that wage rates and labor costs are not the same thing as to the latter that a filibuster was begun in the closing hours of the session which prevented all legislation being considered."

The Council points out that, despite the failure of the embargo on the foreign oil, Congress materially relieved unemployment in the oil industry by inserting a provision in the Navy Department appropriation bill that "no part of the appropriations shall be available for the purchase of any kind of fuel oil except that produced in the United States or its possessions may be procurable, notwithstanding that oil production of the United States or its possessions may exceed more than oil of foreign production."

The Extent and Sting of Unemployment

The poignant effect on the workers of the wholesale refusal of the owners and managers of industry to employ them is tersely described by the American Federation of Labor Executive Council in its report to the 1931 convention of the Federation.

In April, 1930, the United States Bureau of the Census collected figures on the number of the jobless. The Bureau's returns showed 3,187,647 persons without work. Another census taker covered the same territory which is a technical term used by employers and personnel statisticians to indicate a worker whom the employers refuse to hire but keep on their list to be reemployed at some uncertain date when business picks up.

Of the 3,187,647 who were reported by the Census Bureau as without jobs, 2,429,662 had been discharged and had no jobs to which they thought they could return.

On these figures the Council makes the following comment:

Of those without jobs 42 per cent were heads of families. This means that over one million families were without their main sources of income or with income reduced to a point at all, or temporarily, below considerable time.

The difficulty of finding a job is shown strikingly. Although the depression was not nearly so severe in April, 1930, as since then, 55 per cent of those without jobs had been unemployed for more than two months, 40 per cent had been out of work over three months, and 11 per cent had been out for over six months.

These figures indicate one major problem: to speed up contact between unemployed worker and job.

A large proportion of the unemployed were over 45 years of age. Of all those 20 years old and over, 34 per cent were over 45 and 16 per cent were over 55 years old. The exact significance of these figures will be known when the Census publishes its report showing the number of workers over 45. In any case, it is clear that unemployment strikes those over 45 severely.

Analyzed by industries the Council points out that the coal mine operators had dealt most ruthlessly with their employes by dismissing 20.2 per cent of the coal miners. The building industry employers had discharged 19 per cent of their employes. Taken as a whole the employers in the manufacturing industries had handed 14 per cent of the industrial workers in the army of the out-of-works.

The Census figures revealed that only 4.5 of the employes engaged in government and professional work were without jobs, and that 3.5 per cent of the employes in trade, 4.9 of the farm workers, and 6.4 per cent of the transportation workers were out of work.

The Census figures are based on the basis of a census of the unemployed taken in 19 cities in January, 1931, the Department of Commerce estimated the jobless at 6,300,000. In the 19 cities the figures showed the jobless had increased 148 per cent since April, 1930.

The Council comments on the unemployment figures collected by the American Federation of Labor from the affiliated unions.

"The Bureau of Labor Statistics," the Council says, "now furnishes employment indexes in most of the important industrial fields. But the American Federation of Labor is the only organization gathering monthly figures on unemployment representing industry in general. We also publish the only monthly estimates of total unemployment in the United States. These monthly figures are exceedingly important. They enable the country to keep constantly in touch with unemployment development. Reports from trade unions now represent over 2,500 unions with a membership of 750,000."

Retraining Workers Displaced by Machinery

Labor-displacing machinery installed by the owners and managers of industry enable one worker to produce as much wealth in the form of commodities as many workers produced by former methods.

There are also revolutionary changes occurring in the structure of industry caused by changing demands. Rayon takes the place of cotton. The motor bus takes the place of the railroad car and the railroad locomotive.

The result is that hundreds of thousands of workers, after having spent long periods of their working life in certain trades and after having worked at one trade for years, find themselves without a market for their wealth producing ability.

To meet this condition the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its report to the 1931 convention of the Federation, recommended the wide extension of vocational counsel and retraining of workers displaced by machinery. The Council said:

If assistance in knowing the jobs available is supplemented by help in adapting work, skill and experience to various industries, an element is forcibly added to introduce order and skill in meeting the problem of technological unemployment.

The unprecedented rate of technical change in the past decade has made it plain that vocational education should provide opportunities for adults. Courses for adults will be most practical when coordinated with the work of the employment service.

The employment service accumulates information on the kinds of work for which wage earners will be hired and the kinds of workers that are needed. The vocational counselor should know what industries make use of similar skills so that constant retraining can be worked out.

Our educational agencies should consider this problem of vocational education for adults and make provisions to meet it. Experience in this field will be found the reciprocally helpful in keeping vocational education for boys and girls practical and adapted to industrial and worker needs.

AFL NOTES FOR SPEAKERS

Notes for Speakers, a monthly pamphlet published by the American Federation of Labor, helps trade unionists to ascertain what information they may obtain from Federation publications, the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. said in its report to the 1931 convention of the Federation. "Outstanding articles are summarized and pointed up by the use of key sentences," the Council said. "The publication is widely-distributed to officers and active trade unionists."

AFL Council Approves Advance Public Works Planning to Avert Unemployment

Complete approval of the advance planning and regulated construction of public works to stabilize industry and aid the prevention of unemployment in business depressions as provided in the Wagner law, enacted by the last session of Congress, is given by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its report to the 1931 convention of the Federation.

The law establishes the Federal Employment Stabilization Board composed of the Secretaries of the Treasury, Commerce, Agriculture and Labor Departments.

The Board is required to advise the President of the trend of employment, business activity, and the existence or approach of business depression or unemployment. The Board is also required to cooperate with construction agencies in formulating methods of advance planning.

Another function of the Board is to advise the President of the value volume of contracts awarded for construction work by the United States during various periods corresponding with similar periods in previous calendar years.

"Upon recommendation of the Board," the Council's report stated, "the President is likely to exist within six months a period of business depression and unemployment, the President can transmit to Congress estimates for emergency appropriations. Such emergency appropriations shall be expended only for building roads, rivers and harbor works, flood control projects and public buildings under the provisions of law now in effect.

"The intent of Congress is to arrange for the construction of public works in such a manner as will assist in the stabilization of industry and employment through the proper timing of such construction.

"For many years the American Federation of Labor has pleaded with Congress for this legislation. In 1928, the American Federation of Labor declared that 'while we applaud the humane efforts of private individuals to relieve the terrible distress of the unemployed, we most respectfully but emphatically insist that it is the duty of the city, state and national governments to give immediate and adequate relief.' It was also repeatedly declared that arrangements be made to construct public works in times of depression should be made in prosperous times.

"We are sure that if the advance planning law is faithfully carried out it will prove its effectiveness in times of business depression."

CONGRESS BLOCKED OIL BAN ASKED BY LABOR

The difficulty which often confronts Organized Labor in securing legislation of interest to the workers from a hostile Congress is well illustrated by the experience of the oil embargo bill in the last session of Congress as recounted by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its report on national labor legislation to the 1931 convention of the Federation at Vancouver, B. C.

There were many thousands of unemployed oil well workers in the United States. Representatives of these workers' interests began the wholesale importation of oil from Russia, which greatly curtailed the market for our own oil and added many more oil well workers to the unemployed.

"After an agreement had been reached by the oil producers to reduce production," the Council stated, "certain interests began to import oil into the country from Russia. Finally a small decrease of production was agreed to only 13,000,000 barrels of oil came from Venezuela yearly. This soon grew to 117,000,000 barrels. Meanwhile 100,000 more were made idle.

"Bills were introduced in Congress to place an embargo on the importation of oil and they were supported by the American Federation of Labor. The refusal of Congress to listen to the pleas of the unemployed oil workers so impressed the Senate Committee which later was begun in the closing hours of the session which prevented all legislation being considered."

The Council points out that, despite the failure of the embargo on foreign oil, Congress materially relieved unemployment in the oil industry by inserting a provision in the Navy Department appropriation bill that "no part of the appropriations shall be available for the purchase of any kind of fuel oil except that produced in the United States or its possessions may be procurable, notwithstanding that oil production of the United States or its possessions may exceed more than oil of foreign production."

AFL COUNCIL DEMANDS BUSINESS PUBLICITY

The interlinking relationship between all groups engaged in the production and distribution of wealth makes it necessary that all the facts about business enterprises be made public, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor declares in its report to the 1931 convention of the Federation.

"The idea that private ownership entitles the owners to secrecy in methods and designs," the Council says, "is out of harmony with the fact that these factors directly affect results for other participants. Private property no longer entitles owners to make decisions, but fit reporting of all the facts should make it possible for decisions to be intelligently reached.

"The conduct of industry is a matter of concern to groups of workers engaged in the industry, to investors, to the community, to the maintenance of markets, to our national economic balance, that we must work toward full use of the capacity for production, of cost and production accounting.

"The public, investors and employees who have the privilege of operating gainful industry in the community ought to be required to make regular and prescribed reports. Public accountants should be required to certify that such an obligation which accompanies the privilege of operating a business affecting taking which affects the community as well as those who supply the credit and those employed by the undertaking.

"In a very definite way, interrelation of economic activities has increased the degree of public interest in all business undertakings. This necessitates that there should be public accounting on the facts of business which should be filed with the Federal Government and compiled there. The records should be open to responsible organizations."

AFL COUNCIL OPPOSES OLEOMARGARINE TAX

A tax on oleomargarine is inimical to the interests of the workers and should be opposed by the Federation, the organized Labor in the last session of Congress, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor declared in its report to the 1931 convention of the Federation at Vancouver, B. C.

"Bills to tax oleomargarine 10 cents a pound," the report said, "were introduced in the Houses of Congress," the report said. "They were opposed by the American Federation of Labor on the ground that they would increase the cost of living of those who had small means to buy the most. It has been repeatedly demonstrated by those who buy oleomargarine that they are not getting skilled in cents and the funds to purchase butter.

"The American Federation of Labor believes that while there are millions of people out of work and the suffering is so intense the addition of 10 cents per pound to the cost of a product, which like oleomargarine is a necessity, is indefensible. This has been the attitude of the American Federation of Labor for many years.

"In 1916 complaint was made to the American Federation of Labor convention that the 10-cents tax per pound on oleomargarine artificially colored would have to be paid mainly by impoverished people, who are not able to protect themselves.

"The Executive Council opposed penalizing a family's poverty therefore, we objected to the 10 cents per pound tax."

BANKERS CONDEMN FOR WAGE CUT POLICY

The action of bankers in demanding wage reductions to parallel price declines is emphatically condemned by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its report to the Federation's 1931 convention.

"Bankers have argued that the decline in the costs of living meant that a wage cut would not lower standards of living," the report says.

"Their understanding of the situation was based on a fundamental hypothesis that Labor should be kept within certain limits which would keep it always dependent—a modern version of the master and servant philosophy that has curbed Labor's efforts and ambitions for progress.

"Labor knows that it has a right to something more than its present share in returns on the output of industries—that it is a partner in production and should have status accordingly.

"Labor also points to the fact that wages constitute a very large portion of the buying power upon which retail sales depend to form a market for our products.

"Wages are not just the price of Labor in the market governed by the law of supply and demand. They are advance credit paid in advance of the product which the worker helped to create. Higher wages are necessary to maintain an economic machine geared to high production.

"Labor further points out that wage rates and labor costs are not the same thing as to the latter that a filibuster was begun in the closing hours of the session which prevented all legislation being considered.

"Labor also points out that a right to wages constitutes a very large portion of the buying power upon which retail sales depend to form a market for our products.

"Wages are not just the price of Labor in the market governed by the law of supply and demand. They are advance credit paid in advance of the product which the worker helped to create. Higher wages are necessary to maintain an economic machine geared to high production.

"Labor further points out that wage rates and labor costs are not the same thing as to the latter that a filibuster was begun in the closing hours of the session which prevented all legislation being considered.

LABOR IN PORTO RICO MAKES STEADY PROGRESS

A decided achievement in the interests of the masses of Porto Rico was made by the establishment of a Department of Labor, declares the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its report to the 1931 convention of the Federation.

"Since our last convention was held," the Council said, "we pledged our cooperation to the people of Porto Rico and despite the antagonistic attitude of several industries in the island, as well as in the United States, we succeeded in having a number of measures of interest to Labor passed by Congress.

"The greatest victory was the creation of a Department of Labor in Porto Rico, independent of the other departments. The head of this department is now a member, for the first time in the history of Porto Rico, in the cabinet of the Governor.

"The Department of Labor should prove the best instrumentality for protecting, fostering and promoting better conditions for the workingmen, women and children of the island.

"Eighty-five per cent of the adult population of Porto Rico are workers, and the commissioner of this Department of Labor should become the most important public and social agency of the island charged with the duty to deal with the industrial and economic situation of the island and the population of the island.

"The Mediation and Conciliation Commission, the Labor Commission, the Homestead Commission, and the Unemployment and Child Protection Bureau have been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor.

"The Council is glad that 'the Free Federation of Porto Rico, which is the State branch of the American Federation of Labor, conscious of its mission, has reiterated its most sincere support for all American institutions in the island against those who have intended to create disruption, discredit and disloyalty to the form of democratic government.'

"During the past year there have been 23 local unions organized and 5 reorganized."

17 STATES HAVE ENACTED OLD AGE PENSION LAWS

Seventeen States have enacted old age pension laws, according to the report of the American Federation of Labor Executive Council to the 1931 convention of the Federation at Vancouver.

The States are: California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

In some of the States the law is optional instead of mandatory, but in five of the most recent measures the West Virginia law is the only one containing the optional feature.

The Executive Council declared that none of the old age pension laws is satisfactory and said that the best way to secure old ages is through a federal administrative body.

"Designating relief for the aged as 'pensions,'" the Council added, "has caused many members of legislatures to misunderstand the purpose of such measures. The cost of administration will be greatly reduced if these recommendations are adopted and old age security made mandatory."

AFL COUNCIL REPORTS 15 LABOR LAWS PASSED

Organized Labor prevailed upon the members of the United States Congress to pass 15 measures of interest to the workers during the short session which began on December 7, 1930, and ended March 4, 1931, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor reported to the 1931 convention of the Federation at Vancouver.

The laws provided for:

Prevailing rates of wages on public buildings in The United States and the District of Columbia.

Saturday half-holidays for nearly 600,000 government employes and without reduction of wages and salaries.

Advance planning for public works to be constructed during depressions.

Creation of a Department of Labor in Porto Rico.

Extension of provisions of the Vocational and Rehabilitation Acts to Porto Rico.

Retirement Act for Panama Canal and Panama Railroad employes.

Adjustment of wages of certain employes in the Customs Service.

Appropriation of $500,000 additional to increase the border immigration patrol.

Appropriation of $178,000 to collect complete statistics of changes in employment, total wages paid and total hours of employment in the service of the Federal Government, the States and political subdivisions thereof.

Modernization of three battleships in the government navy yards and arsenals at a cost of $35,000,000.

Requiring all work on 11 new destroyers at a cost of $51,700,000 to be performed in the navy yards and arsenals when it does not cost appreciably more than they would elsewhere. Ten million dollars appropriated to begin construction.

Extra compensation for overtime service performed by immigration inspectors and other employes of the immigration service.

Boulder Dam bill signed.

Appropriating an additional $500,000 for construction of Veterans' Hospitals.

Employment Service.

Increase of $200 in wages for railroad locomotive, Bureau of Safety and hours of service inspectors.

Organized Labor also prevailed upon the members of Congress to defeat the following four bills which were hostile to the interests of the workers:

Unification of the border patrols.

Permitting waiving of jury trials.

"Equal Rights" amendment to United States Constitution.

Amendment to Volstead Act to permit raiding of homes without a warrant.

President Hoover vetoed three Labor bills. One provided for a national employment system to be set up in the Department of Labor, another provided a program for assisting the Muscle Shoals problems, and the third increased the wages of 926 village letter carriers.

AFL CONDEMNS FIXING WORK DAY LENGTH BY LAW

The American Federation of Labor Executive Council in its report to the Federation's 1931 convention of the Federation declares that the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States to permit Congress to reduce the daily period of time for which contracts of employment may be lawfully made was submitted in the House. The amendment proposes:

Article XX—To promote the general welfare, the Congress shall have power to regulate the number of hours of service per day for which contracts of employment may be lawfully made.

"Congress has no power at this time to fix the hours of labor, or the wages or prices in private employment. The proposed amendment would permit Congress to reduce the present increase in hours in a day's work.

"The Executive Council believes that this is a dangerous proposal. The Executive Council of the Federation has opposed the fixing of hours or wages by law. In this case only the fixing of hours is involved. It is left to the employes and the employers, the same as now, to argue over wages. It should be opposed."

LABOR SECURES PENSIONS FOR CANAL ZONE WORKERS

The influence of the trade union movement and Labor's insistence during the last session of Congress in securing pensions for employes of the employes of the Panama Canal and the Panama Railroad Company who are citizens of the United States, according to a report made by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to the 1931 convention of the Federation at Vancouver, B. C.

"All employes," the report said, "to whom the Act applies, after they have reached the age of 62 years and have rendered at least 15 years of service on the Canal Zone, will be retired and automatically retired on the annuity provided for in the law.

"The law also provides for disability retirement and involuntary separation from the service. The benefit in the law enacted just before Congress adjourned. Representatives of all organizations affected worked valiantly for success.

"While the postal employes' bill passed both Houses unanimously without a roll call, the measure affecting the other bill was opposed by one representative on the floor, but the House passed it unanimously."

The Council's report also records the fact that Congress at the session had the bill passed by Congress providing for increases of $100 per annum for 926 underpaid village letter carriers.

PICAYUNE CONGRESSMEN

"Owing to the law for a shorter work day on Saturdays for post office employes," declared the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its report to the 1931 convention of the Federation, "Congress refused to increase the wages of the post office laborers."

600,000 FEDERAL EMPLOYES GET WEEKLY HALF HOLIDAY

The trade union movement during last Winter's session of Congress secured the enactment of legislation for the shorter work week without reduction in pay for over half a million Government employes, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor said in its report to the 1931 convention of the Federation at Vancouver, B. C.

"Nearly 600,000 employes of the Federal Government and the District of Columbia," the report stated, "were granted a shorter work day on Saturday during the year and in two laws enacted by Congress, without reduction in wages or loss of time. The first provided for a 44-hour week for $15,000 employes in the postal service and the others were later granted the same benefit in the law enacted just before Congress adjourned. Representatives of all organizations affected worked valiantly for success.

"While the postal employes' bill passed both Houses unanimously without a roll call, the measure affecting the other bill was opposed by one representative on the floor, but the House passed it unanimously."

The Council's report also records the fact that Congress at the session had the bill passed by Congress providing for increases of $100 per annum for 926 underpaid village letter carriers.